

New York State Academy of Family Physicians

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The New York State Academy of Family Physicians represents over 6,000 board-certified physicians, residents and students in family medicine throughout New York

2018 Priorities

Access to Healthcare

- Support:**
- Universal healthcare coverage through a single payer health system**
 - Universal state purchase and distribution of all vaccinations and support for minors' ability to consent to receive the HPV vaccine
 - Legislation to provide for medical aid in dying
- Advocate:**
- For mandatory insurance coverage without cost sharing for nutritional products to treat inborn errors of metabolism
 - For practicing and retired physicians to volunteer to care for the uninsured and underserved through immunity from liability
 - For paid sick leave for employees
- Oppose:**
- Efforts to remove "prescriber prevails" under the Medicaid program

Women's/Reproductive Health

- Support:**
- The Reproductive Health Act and initiatives to protect physicians' medical judgment with reproductive health care and protect physicians acting in good faith from criminal charges**
 - Expansion of existing law to allow for use of patient delivered partner therapy (PDPT) for all Sexually Transmitted Diseases recommended by the CDC
 - Comprehensive sexual education legislation
 - Efforts to ensure comprehensive coverage for contraceptives and availability of oral contraception without a prescription
 - Establishment of lactation accommodations in public transportation facilities
 - Use of standards created by the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare and US Preventative Services Task Force for healthcare provided to women who are incarcerated
- Oppose:**
- Health insurer prior approvals for contraceptive devices which restrict or delay their use and result in unintended pregnancies
 - Oppose mandatory drug testing of pregnant women

Public Health & Safety

- Support:**
- Required reporting of adult vaccine doses to State Immunization Registry (NYSIIS)**
 - That only medical exemptions be permitted for ACIP-recommended childhood vaccines**
 - Expansion of ISTOP law to include methadone clinics and Veterans Affairs facilities
 - Increase in state funding for New York's Tobacco Control Program and expansion of program to include electronic cigarettes; Support efforts to regulate electronic cigarettes like tobacco, to raise tobacco purchase age to 21 and to ban sale of tobacco in pharmacies
 - Increase in state funding for New York's obesity prevention program; support tax on sugar sweetened beverages and advocate for ban on sale of energy drinks to children
 - Measures to provide more walk-able/ bike-able communities and decrease in NYC speed limit

Advocate: -Inclusion of gender expression and gender identity protections in NY's anti-discrimination laws
-That incarcerated persons have access to their prescribed medications
- For policies to limit use of fossil fuels and the production of environmental pollutants
- For protection of physicians against assaults (as automatic felonies), regardless of practice setting

Oppose: -Use of "Reparative" or "Conversion Therapy"

Encourage Growth of Family Practice in New York State

Support: -Efforts to ensure that every medical school in the State has a family medicine department
-Making the Doctors Across NY program permanent and advocating for increased funding to provide loan forgiveness/ other grants to establish medical practices in physician shortage areas
-Income tax credits for physicians who practice in specialty shortage areas or serve as preceptors, including advocating that physicians should be allowed to participate in START-UP NY
-State funding for Area Health Education Centers (AHEC)
-Continued funding for Graduate Medical Education for primary care residency programs and encourage state medical schools to include family medicine and primary care residency slots

Advocate: -For a rotation in family medicine as a physician licensure requirement

Peer Review/ Tort Reform

Support: -Legislation to prohibit the disclosure and discovery of the testimony of a party to a health care quality assurance or peer review proceeding
-Comprehensive Medical Liability Reform measures and continued state funding for the Excess Malpractice program. Pursue binding arbitration with patients in lieu of litigation and a loser pays tort reform measure

Oppose: -Legislation to eliminate the 2 ½ year statute of limitations in medical liability cases

Equitable Payment

Support: -Legislation to allow health care providers to collectively negotiate
-Comprehensive prior authorization reform measures including bill to require clinical peer reviewers to be licensed/registered/ certified in New York
-Disclosure of health insurer criteria for establishing physician fees and advocate for adequate compensation for primary care providers
-Legislation to limit and provide protections related to insurance plan audits of physician practices and the use of extrapolation in determining recoveries
-Implementation of pay-for-performance programs with physician input and reimbursement of physicians for required data mining, and the creation of a CPT code specific for the task of advocating for patients access to imaging, medications or other lab studies

Advocate: -For state funding to provide Medicaid-Medicare rate parity for primary care

Other Priorities

Support: -A pilot program allowing medically supervised safe injection facilities as a harm reduction strategy
-License reciprocity for fleeting instances of practicing medicine
-Multiple pathways to enhanced reimbursement as Medical Homes in the State beyond NCQA

Advocate: -That every school have a school nurse for care of students

Oppose: -Any legislation to set criterion or requirements for Continuing Education/ training for licensure or re-registration of physicians
-Oppose licensing of naturopaths as naturopathic doctors